The Suffragist

5 CENTS

WEEKLY PAPER OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL UNION FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE

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SHE'LL GET THERE, ANYWAY

Drawn by F. T. Richards

Courtesy of the Philadelphia North American

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Situation in Congress.

The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives has granted a hearing to the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage at 10:30, Tuesday, March 3d. The subject of the hearing is House Resolution No. 1, extending the right of Franchise to Women, which resolution has been before the Judiciary Committee since last April.

Nation-wide Demonstration on May 2d.

Rapid progress is being made in the plan for a nation-wide demonstration on behalf of the Federal Amendment on May 2d. Every organization which has been asked to participate in this plan has enthusiastically promised its co-operation. This last week, several members of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Union met with the Board of the National American Woman Suffrage Association to ask the co-operation of the latter in the plan for a nation-wide demonstration. The National Board promised its co-operation, having already passed a resolution to that effect the preceding day.

New Member of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Union.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, President of the Political Equality League of New York, has joined the Executive Committee of the Congressional Union. The Union will undoubtedly be greatly strengthened by the addition of Mrs. Belmont to its Board.

Suffrage Resolution in the Senate.

This last weeek Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, presented to the Senate petitions on behalf of the suffrage resolution from citizens of his own State of Oregon. He also announced that petitions had been entrusted to him for the Senators from each of the other States and would be delivered by him to the Senators for whom they were intended. These petitions, which were signed by men from every section of the country, were gathered by the Federal Woman's Equality Association. They were accompanied by a letter signed by two officers of the Association, Mrs. Clara W. MacNaughton and Mrs. Anna Harmon, which letter was presented to the Senate by Mr. Chamberlain and read to the Senate by the secretary.

The suffrage resolution has been first on the calendar for some days, but has not been discussed or acted upon as yet. On February 11th when the suffrage resolution was announced as first in the regular order of business, Mr. Ashurst of Arizona, who reported the bill to the Senate, said: "Mr. President, a number of Senators on both sides of the Chamber have signified a desire to speak on this joint resolution. In view of such statements, manifestly I cannot urge the consideration of the joint resolution at this time. I therefore ask that it may go over in order that Senators may have an opportunity to deliver their addresses on the subject." Consideration of the resolution was accordingly deferred.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

We are now past the twenty-five thousand dollar mark in collections, contributions, membership fees, and tickets at which we aimed when we opened our fund a year ago. This sum has been expended in the work of the past year—that is, in the three processions, the two campaigns, the maintenance of headquarters in Washington and in Delaware, the publication of a weekly paper and all the other activities connected with the legislative and propagandist work of the Congressional Union. We are now putting our goal at Fifty Thousand Dollars, and ask every one to send some contribution toward the expenses of this coming year.

MARY MORRIS LOCKWOOD,
Treasurer.

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD $50,000 FUND FOR SECURING THE PASSAGE OF THE FEDERAL SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

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Collection	8.19
Membership fees	8.25
Total	$626.19
Previously acknowledged in the SUFFRAGIST	$27,143.74
Total to the 15th of February	$27,769.93

Plans for the organizing of demonstrations to be held in every State in the Union on May 2d, and to be followed by a culminating demonstration in the National Capital May 9th, are well under way. Couriers are touring the country, calling on Suffragists everywhere to plan their demonstrations on as great a scale as possible.

In the South, Mrs. Brooke of North Carolina, is visiting North and South Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. In the far West, Mrs. Emma Smith De Voe, President of the National Council of Women Voters, is seeking the co-operation of Washington, Utah and Idaho.

Miss Alice Paul and Mrs. Lawrence Lewis recently passed through Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island to win sympathy and support for the national plan. Mrs. Oilve Hasbrouck, the wife of Commander Hasbrouck of the U. S. Navy, is furthering the same work in Maine and Vermont. Mrs. Jessie Hary Stubbs is making a splendid campaign in Illinois, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia.

These great plans need the support of women from every section of the country. As the moment of our victory draws near, we must make our best sacrifices, each one contributing her share toward the success of the great National enterprises which will be necessary in the last period of the suffrage battle. A movement is not really democratic which is not based on the contributions of great masses of people. Please send in your contribution—send it early.

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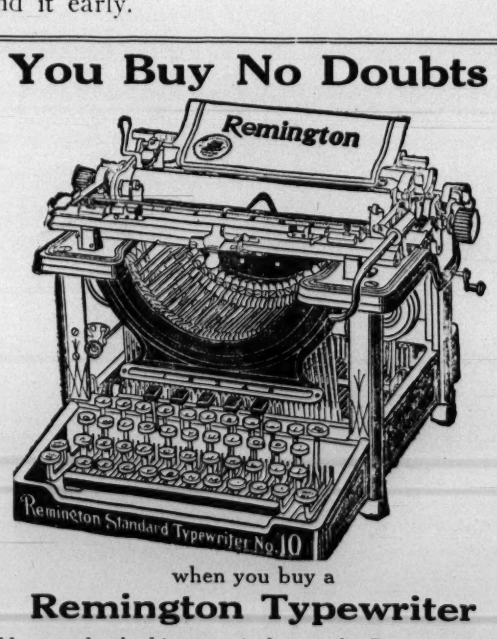

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Nation-Wide Demonstration, May 2d.

In pursuance of the plan of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Union, announced by Miss Alice Paul on January 11, at the first rally of the Union for 1914, held at the home of Mrs. William Kent, the arrangements for the nation-wide demonstration on May 2 in behalf of the Constitutional Amendment enfranchising women are already being made in many States.

Mrs. Emma Smith De Voe, President of the National Council of Women Voters, is taking charge of the organization work in Washington, Idaho, Utah and other equal suffrage States. She writes from Boise City that the women voters of the West are actively enlisted in the Constitutional Amendment campaign outlined by the Congressional Union, and will co-operate in every way. Senator Helen Ring Robinson, of Denver, is inaugurating the work in Colorado.

New England and Middle Atlantic Demonstration.

Miss Paul and Mrs. Lawrence Lewis spent two weeks in making a tour of the New England States, from which Miss Paul returned to Washington to take part in the reception in honor of the members of the deputation of self supporting women on February 1.

In Massachusetts the work or organizing the demonstration of May 2 is in the hands of Mrs. Gertrude Leonard, of the State Woman Suffrage Association; in Maryland, the demonstration will be directed by Mrs. Donald R. Hooker, of Baltimore; in Rhode Island by the Woman Suffrage party, and in Delaware by Miss Mabel Vernon, of the Congressional Union. In Pennsylvania, the work will be conducted by the Philadelphia societies. The State Suffrage Associations are now engaged in preliminary organization work in New Jersey, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

After a conference with Miss Paul in Boston, Mrs. Olive Hasbrouck, wife of Commander Hasbrouck of the United States Navy, volunteered to rouse the suffragists of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont to action. In a letter received this week, Mrs. Hasbrouck reports excellent progress in all three States. Through her personal efforts Maine has swung into line, and is working energetically. Mrs. Helen M. Bates, President of the Maine Suffrage Association, will arrange an open air meeting in Portland, to be held in the city's largest square, the speakers to address the crowd from the steps of the City Hall. Decorations and banners, showing the demand for the passage of the Constitutional Amendment, will be used.

Washington Procession.

While organization work is being inaugurated in the States for making May 2 a suffrage day of national significance arrangements for the suffrage parade to be held in Washington on May 9 are rapidly going forward. The object of the parade in Washington is to impress Congress on the eve of adjournment with the strength of the sentiment throughout the United States in favor of the passage of the Constitutional Amendment enfranchising women.

The ease with which a permit to hold the parade was obtained from the city authoriites was in marked contrast to the extended negotiations necessary to secure the permit to hold the suffrage parade of March 3 last. Miss Lucy Burns, who is in charge of the arrangements, received the permit within twenty-four hours after filing the request.

The parade, in which women from every State in the Union will take part, will march up Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House to the Capitol, where a meeting will be held on the plaza, permission having been secured for speakers to address the crowd from the Capitol steps.

Permit for Capitol Meeting.

Miss Prouty, daughter of Representative Prouty, of Iowa, spent the day in obtaining permission for the meeting at the Capitol. The Speaker of the House referred her to Vice-President Marshall. That gentleman assured her he knew nothing whatever of the rules in such cases, but if Mr. Clark was willing that suffrage speeches be made from the steps of the Capitol, it would be all right with him.

Mr. Clark admitted a few moments later that he was not familiar with the precedents, if there were any, for the granting of Miss

MRS. O. H. P. BELMONT

Prouty's request, but if Mr. Marshall thought it was all right he had no doubt it could be done and suggested that Representative Underwood, of Alabama, be consulted.

Toward the close of the afternoon, Miss Prouty returned to the suffrage headquarters, exhausted but triumphant, having successfully interviewed every official from Vice-President Marshall to Elliott Woods, Superintendent of the Capitol. No necessary formality has been overlooked. The meeting on the Capitol steps has been officially indorsed.

Co-operation of the National Woman Suffrage Association.

As a result of the conference between the Executive Committee of the Congressional Union and the Executive Board of the National Woman Suffrage Association, which took place in New York City on Thursday, February 12, the Union is able to announce that the co-operation of the National Association in the work of organizing a national suffrage demonstration on May 2, is assured. At this conference, the National Board promised to co-operate with the Union in this matter, a resolution to that effect having been passed the previous day. It was proposed by Miss Jane Addams, vice-president of the National Association, that a committee of two members be appointed to meet a similar committee appointed by the Congressional Union, to draw up the resolutions to be adopted at the scene of each demonstration on May 2, and forwarded to Congress.

Representing the Congressional Union at the Conference were Miss Alice Paul, Miss Lucy Burns, Mrs. Mary Beard, Mrs. Lawrence Lewis, Mrs. William Kent, Mrs. Crystal Eastman Benedict and Mrs. Gilson Gardner. The conference took place at the headquarters of the National Association, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Miss Jane Addams, Mrs. Stanley McCormick and other members of the Board being in attendance.

Our New Committee Member

We have great pleasure in announcing that Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, President of the Political Equality Association of New York, has been elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Union. Mrs. Belmont has accepted office and has promised henceforth to spend as much of her time as possible in Washington in active work for the Union. The Congressional Union gains in Mrs. Belmont a woman of remarkable executive and financial ability. Besides establishing the Political Equality Association, the offices of which fill a three-story building in 41st Street, New York, and whose branch associations are eleven in number, Mrs. Belmont has managed many other large enterprises. She is noted as asuccessful builder. The first ward of the Nassau (Long Island) Hospital was designed and built by her in 1900, and the new hospital at Hempstead, Long Island, was also in large part the result of her efforts. She built St. Mark's Episcopal Church at Islip and presented it to the congregation. She presented to Trinity Church Corporation of New York City the Seaside Home for Sick Children at Great Neck, L. I.

Mrs. Belmont is noted for the beautiful homes that have been built under her supervision. The distinguished architect, Richard I. Hunt, said he considered her studies and education in architecture equal to that of most men who had made a reputation in this profession and that he would rather work with her than with any man he had ever met. The residence of Indiana limestone on Fifth Avenue, New York, as well as "Marble House," the famous Newport home, are two of the noted houses of the world. "Brookholt," at Hempstead, L. I., is an ideal country home, and the estate, with its thousands of trees, its terraces, winter garden, etc., was transformed by Mrs. Belmont from a barren plain into a beautiful landscape. She built about five years ago a spacious and handsome home in Madison Avenue, New York City, to which she transferred the marvelous collection of armor, rugs, etc., made by the late Mr. Belmont.

Mrs. Belmont has done a large amount of philanthropic work, without ostentation or publicity, She has given large sums to the Salvation Army, night lunch wagons to the Temperance workers, and has aided innumerable private enterprises of a benevolent character. She has been a lifelong Episcopalian and a large contributor to the various funds connected wit hthe church work.

VOL. II FEBRUARY 21, 1914 No. 8

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Official weekly newspaper of the

CONGRESSIONAL UNION FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE

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DARLING 34 PRINTER

SENATE AND HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NUMBER ONE Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right of suffrage to women

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United State of America in Congress Assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of the said legislatures, shall be valid as part of said Constitution, namely :

"ARTICLE—

"Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Sec. 2. The Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article."

HISTORY OF AMENDMENT

Introduced :
In the Senate: April 7, 1913, by Senator George E. Chamberlain, of Oregon.
In the House: April 7, 1913, by Representative Frank W. Mondell, of Wyoming.

Referred :
In the Senate: April 7, 1913, to the Woman Suffrage Committee.
In the House: April 7, 1913, to the Judiciary Committee.

Reported:
In the Senate: June 13, 1913, unanimous favorable report.

Discussed:
In the Senate: July 31, 1913, twenty-two Senators in favor, three opposing.
September 18, 1913, Senator Wesley L. Jones, of Washington, demands immediate action.
On January 21, 1914, Senator Ashurst of Arizona, delivered a speech urging the passage of the Amendment.

Present Status:
In the Senate: Awaiting action.
In the House: Before the Judiciary Committee.

Party Responsibility—What Does It Mean ?

BY MARY BEARD.

Throughout Constitutional and political history, the word responsibility as applied to the conduct of legislatures, has had just one meaning. It has been understood by writers, lawyers, rulers and voters alike to mean nothing less than answerability to the electorate at the polls.

An absolute monarch on the other hand is irresponsible, however beneficent his relations toward his subjects may be. Whenever an absolute monarchy changes to a constitutional, or limited monarchy, the ruler and his chief advisers are made responsible; the ruler to elected representatives; the elected representatives to the voters. The very essence of the change in the form of government is responsibility not to conscience alone, but to the electorate.

A responsible ministry was an important advance. It meant that taxpayers, at least, could check the acts of government officials and turn them out of office if they proved unwilling to do the bidding of those who placed them in power. .

Every extension of the suffrage has widened the responsibility of elected representatives; that is, has made them cognizant of the fact that they hold office at the pleasure of a greater number of people. Universal suffrage thus means complete responsibility on the part of representatives because they can no longer claim to act in the interests of a section of the community that has no voice. They are responsible to all adults and must go before them at stated intervals to render an account and face approval or defeat in the open.

At the present time in the United States, the Democratic party is in power nationally. It has accepted for itself and has been accorded, by the public at large, full responsibility for acts of legislation passed since it came into office a year ago. The Democratic party therefore, understanding the word responsibility in its political sense, is prepared to go back to the voters, whose instrument it is, for an expression of opinion on its record.

For its attitude toward the proposed suffrage amendment, the Democratic party assumes full responsibility also. Mr. Underwood has made that perfectly clear and Mr. Underwood is the spokesman of the Democratic party in the House. The Republican and Progressive Members of Congress also place the responsibility where it rightfully belongs, as was recently made clear by Congressman Lenroot. The Republican and Progressive members of the House cannot vote on the proposition, if the Democrats who control all the governmental machinery at present, will not allow the suffrage amendment to come up for a vote and will not even allow the consideration in the House of a proposition to establish a special committee to study the question.

If this unwillingness of the Democratic party to submit the question for debate in the House continues, the Democratic party must state the reason to the voters to whom it is responsible for its conduct.

Women Voters and the Democratic Party.

Unfortunately for all women, the Democratic party is more responsible to men than to women. Only certain women have any check upon a political party or any power of instruction at the polls. It is those certain women, therefore, who must use what power they have to discipline or approve the Democratic party in the autumn elections.

Will they discipline?

If they are suffragists first and Democrats second, they will discipline. If they are self-respecting women they will oppose the party that looks with contempt upon their sex.

Free women are not responsible to unfree women in a political sense. Therefore, unfree women have no control over free women. In face of this fact it is inspiring to see the way in which a feeling of *moral* obligation is growing and spreading through the West toward the more backward East and South. Its full fruition may be looked for in the autumn of this year at the polls.

This feeling of moral obligation is one that cannot be shirked by free women. They are in very fact responsible for the attitude of the Government toward woman-kind in this country. They are responsible if the Democrats are permitted to seek refuge behind the doctrine of States rights, when even the boll weevil and the cattle plague have become matters of national concern. It is significant that at the present time the majority in the Senate is almost exactly equal to the number of Democratic Senators from the suffrage States. This being the case, it is plain that women voters have it in their power to put an end to the long list of fictions which are being used to delay the hour when liberty, equality and fraternity shall supplant subjection, dominance and antagonism in the relations of men and women.

A Substitute Suggestion to Congressmen.

Here is a memory gem from the debate in the House of Representatives on the Eight-Hour Bill. Mr. Gardner of Massachusetts: "But we shall never get this matter into proper shape, never in this world, until we have a Constitutional Amendment permitting the National Congress to prescribe maximum hours of labor throughout the United States. Now the reason why I am advocating an eight-hour day for women here and did not as a candidate for Governor advocate an eight-hour day for women in my own State is this: Massachusetts has large textile industries, large cotton and woolen mills, where many women are employed. Our textile industries come into competition with the cotton mills and the woolen mills in those States where women are permitted to work 56 hours, 58 hours, and in some cases, I understand, a good many more hours a week. * * * I advocate an amendment to the Constituion of the United States which shall permit Congress to prohibit child labor and excessive working hours throughout the country."

Senator Ransdell of Louisiana, wants a Constitutional Amendment to prohibit divorce. Representative Gardner wants a Constitutional Amendment to regulate the hours of work of women In the name of all that is reasonable, gentlemen, why not one Constitutional Amendment to give women the right to make their own marriage and divorce laws, to regulate their own hours of labor, to protect their own children, and to govern the conditions of their own lives and fortunes? Why not?

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Our Conditions Have Changed, Too.

President Wilson has given out a statement in regard to his repudiation of the free canal tolls plank of the Baltimore platform. Conditions have altered so materially since the Baltimore Convention, declares the President, that it becomes necessary and expedient to alter the Government's policy in regard to the tolls. Apparently the President has convinced his party that he is right about the altered conditions, for few Democratic voices have been raised in protest against this latest mutilation of the sacred platform.

The President's contention that changed conditions calls for changed policies is perfectly sound. We thoroughly approve of a flexible policy. For this reason we urge on President Wilson once more the pressing necessity of speaking to his party on the question of the Woman Suffrage Bill now before Congress. The President should point out to the Democratic party that nothing in the country has changed so materially since the Baltimore Convention as the woman suffrage situation. It has changed far more than the canal situation has changed. Therefore, a changed policy on the part of the Government is not only possible, it is imperative.

When the Baltimore Convention met in July, 1912, the number of suffrage States was six. The number of Senators representing women was twelve. The number of Representatives directly responsible to women voters was 25. The whole number of women voters in the country was approximately two million. Since the Baltimore Convention three more States, Oregon, Arizona and Kansas, have adopted woman suffrage. One more State, Illinois, has granted its women the Presidential and the municipal franchise, thus giving the women of the second city in size and of the third State in point of population, enormously increased political importance in the eyes of two more Senators and twenty-seven more Representatives in Congress. The number of Senators now representing women is now eighteen. The number of representatives now responsible to women voters is 37 The number of women voters in the country is now close to four millions. And the women are voting,too. Over 160,000 of them registered in the city of Chicago last week.

If all this does not indicate an altered condition we should like to know why. It is sincerely hoped that the Democratic party will hear from the President on the changed suffrage situation before the end of the present session of Congress. More than one Congressman from the suffrage States has hinted that such a word would be gratefully received. They know, and they have said so plainly, that unless they hear from the President before the end of the session, that he will hear from the women voters next November.

Hearing Before the Judiciary Committee.

Immediately following the refusal of the Rules Committee and of the Democratic Caucus to create a suffrage committee in the House, the Congressional Union turned to the Judiciary Committee for a hearing on the Suffrage resolution. A delegation from the Union called upon Representative Clayton, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and asked for a hearing for the Congressional Union early in March. The Judiciary Committee replied, setting the hearing for 10:30 A. M. on Tuesday, March 3.

House Resolution Number One, on which the hearing is to be held, was introduced in the House of Representatives on the opening day of Congress, last April, by Representative Mondell of Wyoming. It was immediately referred to the Judiciary Committee and has been before that committee ever since. Suffragists have not pressed for a report from this committee, for it was hoped that a special committee for the consideration of woman suffrage might be secured, similar to the suffrage committee in the Senate, before which a hearing could be held and from which it was hoped that a report would be made. The efforts of Suffragists have been centered, therefore, upon obtaining such a committee. Now that the party in power has definitely, for the time being at least, taken a stand against the creation of such a committee, no further energy will be spent in this line, and attention will be given entirely to the endeavor to secure a favorable report from the Judiciary Committee.

The Judiciary Committee consists of the following:

Henry D. Clayton, Alabama, chairman (Democrat).
Edwin Y. Webb, North Carolina (Democrat).
Charles C. Carlin, Virginia (Democrat).
John C. Floyd, Arkansas (Democrat).
Robert Young Thomas, Jr., Kentucky (Democrat).
Henry Garland Dupre, Louisiana (Democrat).
Walter I. McCoy, New Jersey (Democat).
Daniel J. McGillicuddy, Maine (Democrat).
Jack Beall, Texas (Democrat).
Joseph Taggart, Kansas (Democrat).
Louis Fitzhenry, Illinois (Democrat).
John F. Carew, New York (Democrat).
John B. Peterson, Indiana (Democrat).
John J. Mitchell, Massachusettc (Democrat).
Andrew J. Volstead, Minnesota (Republican).
John M. Nelson, Wisconsin (Republican).
Dick T. Morgan, Oklahoma (Republican).
Henry G. Danforth, New York (Republican).
L. C. Dyer, Missouri (Republican).
George S. Graham, Pennsylvania (Republican).
Walter M. Chandler, New York (Progressive).

Suffragists can help at the present juncture by writing to every member of the committee and urging a favorable report on the suffrage resolution (House Joint Resolution Number One).

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THE AVENUE AT NINTH

Demonstration Plans in West and South.

Mrs. Jessie Hardy Stubbs, who is organizing the demonstrations in States of the Middle West, writes that the idea is received with enthusiasm. The Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis has undertaken to organize the demonstration in that city, and it is expected that this will take the form of a procession, the first to be held in St. Louis. The League expects to gain the co-operation of the Women's Clubs of Missouri, most of which are strongly permeated with suffrage sentiment. Mrs. Stubbs held many open air meetings in St. Louis, and delivered an address before the Republican State Committee. She was the guest during her stay of Miss Clara Louise Thompson, field secretary of the Missouri Suffrage Association.

Mrs. Stubbs left Washington February 7, going first to Chicago where she was entertained by Mrs. E. T. Franklin. She conferred at length with Mrs. Grace Wilbur Trout, President of the Illinois State Association, and at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association explained the details of the plan for the nation-wide demonstration on May 2. During the next five weeks Mrs. Stubbs will visit Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia.

Mrs. Minnie E. Brooke, who is organizing the Southern States, is now in Virginia, where, according to her last report, the most intense interest is being shown in the suffrage cause and in the coming demonstration. Before leaving Norfolk Mrs. Brooke was obliged to promise to return for a week of street speaking, which is just being inaugurated in Virginia. Apparently, street speaking is badly needed there. "One man told me," writes Mrs. Brooke, "that he never knew women paid taxes. Yet what is really bothering them is the task ahead of them of teaching women to use the ballot." Richmond will probably be the scene of Virginia's demonstration in May 2. —*The News, Saginaw, Michigan. February 7.*

The Democratic party in the House of Representatives has demonstrated that the woman suffragists have adopted the right policy when they determine to hold the party in power responsible. No better illustration of the iniquitous caucus system of domination could be had than the spectacle of 123 members out of a total membership of 435 dictating the policy of the House on the question of woman suffrage. The vote in the Democratic caucus on the question whether or not to consider the woman suffrage issue was 123 to 57. That vote practically binds all members of the Democratic party. It automatically disfranchises every Repubilcan and every Progressive in the House and also every Democrat in favor of suffrage. It means that the question cannot come to a vote in the House itself.

Since the Republicans and Progressives have never had a chance to express themselves on this question, and since they will not be allowed to do so—the Democratic caucus having decreed otherwise—the only logical thing to do is to hold the Democratic party responsible for its action, and this is what the Woman's Congressional Union proposes to do. This view of the matter is the one held by President Wilson himself. The President has told two delegations of visiting women that he could not speak for the party until the party had determined to take up the suffrage question. It would seem to be the business of the women to show the Democratic party that it would be wise to take up the question.

District Women Gain Eight-Hour Day.

The House of Representatives celebrated Lincoln's Birthday by passing unanimously the La Follette-Johnson bill for an eight-hour working day for women in the District of Columbia. The bill was passed by the Senate in the closing days of the last Congress. There does not seem to be any doubt that the President will approve the measure, which is a fairly good one. It is faulty because it fails to protect stenographers employed by Congressmen. It is good because it does protect laundry workers and others whose hours are too often irregular and protracted, and it furnishes an object lesson to cities all over the country where inhumanly long hours in shops and department stores are the rule during the Christmas season. About 40,000 employees will come under the provisions of the act, the exact text of which reads as follows:

Be it enacted, etc. That no female shall be employed in any manufacturing, mechanical, or mercantile establishment, laundry, hotel, or restaurant, or telegraph or telephone establishment or office, or by any express or transportation company in the District of Columbia more than eight hours in any one day or more than six days or more than forty-eight hours in any one week.

Section 2 of the bill forbids the work at night, or "before the hour of 7 o'clock in the morning or after the hour of 6 o'clock in the evening of any one day," of any girl under the age of eighteen. Three inspectors, two of whom must be women, will be appointed to enforce the law.

Representative Moore of Pennsylvania, called attention to the most serious defect of the bill. Questioning Mr. Peters of Massachusetts, who was speaking in favor of the bill, Mr. Moore asked: "Would this (bill) apply to stenographers employed in the offices of Members of Congress?"

Mr. Peters: "No, I should say it would not any more than it would apply to domestic servants."

Mr. Mann of Illinois: "Why not?"

Mr. Moore: "They work, many of them, longer than eight hours."

Mr. Mann: "I do not think they work more than eight hours a day."

Mr. Moore: "Oh, yes, they do. I would like to ask the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Peters) how long he works and whether his stenographer does not work as long as he does? Why should not this be made to apply to employees of the Government, to stenographers of Members of Congress, as well as to those who work in the department stores? I am pointing out one of the inequalities of the bill."

Mr. Peters replied evasively: "There is a large field," he said vaguely, "and I hope we shall reach a time when over the entire United States no woman shall be employed under any conditions over eight hours a day."

Later in the debate Mr. Mann remarked caustically: "I have sometimes wondered at the generosity of the gentlemen of Congress who propose, out of their generous souls, that stenographers in hotels shall work only eight hours a day, but that require that stenographers employed by themselves work sixteen hours a day."

These debates in Congress, on bills affecting the special interests of women, are of interest to Suffragists because they clearly indicate the confusion of the average masculine mind, even the selected Congressional mind, on the subject of women and their status. All through the debate on the Eight-Hour Bill there ran an under current of histility to the theory of women's inherent right to work for wages. Said Mr. Johnson of Kentucky: "Left to me, I would fix it so that no woman or girl would be permitted to go into any shop or factory and go to work. I think her place is at home, and I deplore the fact that women and girls have driven men out of employment by accepting a lower wage. If those for whose benefit this bill is to be passed would decline this sort of employment and go home to become the wives of men who are now thrown out of employment, the country would be far better off."

Mr. Logue of Pennsylvania, approved of the bill as a step in the right direction, that is, towards keeping women at domestic tasks at least part of the time, and Mr. Howard of Georgia, said: "It is a sad commentary on the men of this country that women should have to work at all. I wish to the good Lord that no woman had to work. I wish they could all stay at home and raise their families, for upon the mothers' training in the home depends the future of our nation. But in some cases they are forced to work; because all men do not make ideal husbands and ideal fathers. But if we were all ideal husbands and ideal fathers, not only would the women not have to work, but they would not even want to vote in this country." (Applause and laughter.)

Fortunately for legislation in the country the Representatives from the Suffrage States are better grounded in sociology and economics. Representative Bryan of Washington, in a splendid speech, said in part: "If there is anything that the women claim that they are entitled to in this country, it is, like other human beings, that of equality. They do not want to be placed on a pedestal and given unusual privileges and unusual rights; all they want is that they shall be considered exactly as they are; they want to have the right to work if they want to work. They want to have the right to engage in all these things if they care to, and they do not want to be subjected, and the human race does not want them to be subjected, to the rules and conditions that make it impossible for them to maintain themselves when they do elect to work. A woman is entitled to work if she wants to work for wages. The suggestion that women be required, or permitted to do nothing in this world except live in their homes is a misconception."

Mr. Kent of California, put the whole situation in a few clear paragraphs, when he said: "I have no sympathy whatever with the idea of those men who believe that women ought to do nothing except to purr by the fireside, and ought not to engage in productive labor. We are continuously demanding from society a recognition of the claims of those who cannot be self-supporting. We ask more and more help for children, we ask for recognition of the self-respecting class of the aged, and we ask more and more help for the cripples and for those who are inherently incapable. All this means that the adult efficient members of society must produce more and more. All is contained in the quest for adequate production, and then of rational distribution, with full recognition of the fundamental human right to live decent and adequate and broad lives, with due time for recreation.

"I believe that women ought to work. I believe that their first and fundamental duty is to reproduce the species. But when that duty is performed they have a further duty, to help to sustain and to support society under such conditions as are wholesome, inspiring and livable.

"We must realize that all of us are forced to produce enough to supply all of us, and that means that we must support the aged, the infant, the crippled, the sick, and must provide for dependent motherhood out of the effort of the efficient. There is no room for idleness among the competent, or we shall all starve together."

Mr. McKellar of Tennessee, said of the bill that it was "so obviously a just act that I believe that if women had had the right to vote they would have had such a law on the statute books long ago." Debates in Congress are all resolving themselves into suffrage debates. Woman suffrage is the most persistent question of the day.

THE BILL PASSES.

The bill was in danger for a few minutes because of an amendment offered by Mr. Fowler of Illinois, who wished the bill completely changed and made to extend the eight-hour day to all workers, men as well as women. The amendment was rejected and the bill in its original form was passed by a unanimous vote.

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Program for the Afternoon

After the Play Drop in at 1420 F Street and Join the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage

Mrs. Sewell: "I am indignant, Miss Swayne"

The SUFFRAGIST the only Political Newspaper Published in the U. S. for and by Women

"Before Sunrise"

By Bessie Hatton.

The girl of the past, brought up in a conventional British home, uneducated, untrained for any vocation, unfit to cope with the big problems of life, or even to see life except the village life which surrounds her—how does she act when faced with the greatest problem life presents to a woman?

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"How the Vote was Won"

By Cicely Hamilton.

What orthodox anti-suffragist like Mr. Cole would not be indignant when his sister, his niece, who has written a "scandalous book," his cousin, a stage soubrette, a distant female relative whom he scarcely knew, and a domineering old aunt, arrived at his house and asked to be supported? All the women had been self-supporting, but they reached the conclusion that the antis were right and that woman's place was in the home. What would you have done if you had been in Mr. Cole's dilemma?

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

Horace Cole.....Mr. James R. Daly
Gerald Williams.....Mr. Henry Sands
Ethel Cole.....Mrs. Mary Kealty Claggett
Winifred .....Miss Elsie Hill
Agatha.....Miss Mabel Grandin
Lilly.....Miss Frances Carpenter
Madame Christine.Mrs. Maude Howell Smith
Maudie Sparks.....Mrs. Carol Bird
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Congressional Union Announcements

The Congressional Union is an organization of women in all parts of the country who have joined together in the effort to secure an amendment to the United States Constitution enfranchising women. The Union is open to all women who believe that suffrage is the main issue in national politics. There is an entrance fee of twenty-five cents, after which there are no further dues, as it is known that each member will contribute to the limit of her ability.

Congressional Union Campaign

PROPAGANDA WORK.

Washington, D. C.

An unusually attractive course of lectures on woman suffrage by speakers of international reputation has been arranged by Mrs. John J. White. The proceeds will go to the Congressional Union.

The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. James W. Pinchot, 1615 Rhode Island Avenue, on February 19th, when Miss Janet Richards, the well known lecturer and student of contemporary events addressed a arge and enthusiastic audience.

The second of the series will be at the home of Mrs. Charles Boughton Wood, 1619 Rhode Island Avenue, on Thursday, February 26th. Mr. Frank Stephens, founder of the Arden, Delaware Single Tax Colony, eminent lecturer and writer and one of the foremost suffragist speakers, will address the meeting.

Mr. Charles Zueblin, for many years professor at Chicago University and eminent for his extension work in connection with the university, will be the third speaker of the series. The meeting will take place March 5th at the home of Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell, 1331 Connecticut Avenue.

The fourth meeting of the series will occur March 12th, the place to be announced later. Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, the brilliant writer, author of "Woman and Economics," etc., will be the speaker. On March 19th, at the home of Mr. William Eno, 1771 N Street, N. W., Mr. Max Eastman, for several years professor of logic at Columbia University, now editor of the "Masses," and a lecturer who delightfully combines philosophy and humor, will be the speaker.

The last of the series will be given at the home of Mrs. John G. Henderson, 16th Street and Florida Avenue, March 28th. Mrs. Ida Husted Harper, distinguished writer and speaker, will be the feature of this meeting.

The hour for all these meetings is 8:30 P. M., price of subscription to entire course $5.00; single lecture, $1.00. Address all communications to Mrs. J. J. White, 2408 Massachusetts Avenue. The following are the list of patronesses:

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PROGRAM OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22d.

Regular 4 o'clock tea at Congressional Union Headquarters, 1420 F Street, N. W.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26th.

Residence of Mrs. Chas. Boughton Wood, 1619 Rhode Island Avenue, 8:30 P. M. Drawing Room Meeting. Speaker, Mr. Frank Stephans.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27th.

Street Meeting, 14th and Kenyon Streets, 8:00 P. M. Speakers, Miss Minta Jones of North Carolina, Mrs. E. St. Clair Thompson.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28th.

Street Meeting, 10th and Pennsylvania Avenue, 8 P. M. Speakers, Miss Elsie Hill, Miss Doris Stevens.

Street Meeting, 9th and E Streets, N. W. Speakers, Miss Minta Jones of North Carolina, Mrs. E. St. Clair Thompson.

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